



University Counselling FAQ for DP2 Parents and Families

A practical guide to the application process, financial aid, gap years,
deferred enrolment and family support

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About This Guide

This guide answers the questions families most often ask about university applications at UWC Dilijan. It explains the roles of students, families and the University Counsellor; the main application systems; academic and testing requirements; financial aid; gap years and deferred enrolment; and the ways families can provide useful support.

University policies change frequently. Students should always check each institution's official admissions and financial aid pages and follow the internal deadlines communicated by UWC Dilijan. Where this guide gives examples, they are intended to explain a process rather than guarantee admission, funding or a particular outcome.

Admission and scholarships are not guaranteed. Decisions are made by universities, and every application is reviewed under that institution's current policies.

Roles and Responsibilities

Who is responsible for the university application process?

The student owns the application process. Students research universities, complete and submit applications, write their own essays, meet deadlines, request recommendations, provide financial information when required and keep MaiaLearning accurate.

The University Counsellor helps students build a balanced list, understand requirements and timelines, review application strategy, coordinate school documents and navigate questions about financial aid and application systems. The counsellor cannot guarantee admission or funding and cannot complete applications for students.

Families provide practical and emotional support. They should discuss affordability early, help collect financial documents, encourage realistic planning and allow the student's own voice and choices to remain central.

How should families communicate with the school and universities?

Students should be the main point of contact with universities. Families are welcome to ask the University Counsellor questions and may join a meeting when this has been agreed with the student and counsellor. Parents should not write essays, complete application sections or communicate with an admissions office as if they were the student.

Application Limits Platforms and Deadlines

How many applications may a UWC Dilijan student submit?

UWC students may submit a maximum of **10 university applications in total**. The purpose of this limit is to encourage a thoughtful, balanced list and allow students to prepare each application carefully.

10 applications do not always mean ten universities. One UCAS application can include up to five course choices, while a University of California application can include more than one campus. Each institution submitted through the Common Application counts separately. Students must confirm how each application will be counted with the University Counsellor before submitting.

A balanced list should include realistic options that are academically and financially viable. A university is not a safe option if the student cannot afford to attend or if the program does not meet the student's needs.

What is MaiaLearning used for?

MaiaLearning is UWC Dilijan's central university-planning platform. Students use it to maintain their university list, connect to the Common Application when relevant, request school documents, monitor application tasks and record final admission outcomes.

Official transcripts, school reports and recommendations are sent by the school through the appropriate platform or university submission channel. Students must keep their MaiaLearning list current, so the counselling office knows which documents to prepare and where to send them.

Which application platforms and dates should families know?

System	Typical use	2026–27 timing to know
Common Application	United States and participating institutions in other countries	The 2026–27 application opened on 1 August 2026. Each university sets its own deadlines; many early rounds fall in October or November and many regular rounds fall in January.
UCAS	United Kingdom	For 2027 entry, the deadline is 15 October 2026 for Oxford, Cambridge and most medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses. The equal-consideration deadline for most other undergraduate courses is 13 January 2027.
Studielink	Many programmes in the Netherlands	General deadlines are 15 January for numerus-fixus programmes and 1 May for many other programmes, but institutions may set different or earlier deadlines.
Direct university portals	Europe, Canada, Asia and other destinations	Requirements and deadlines vary by institution, programme, nationality and scholarship. Students must verify every date on the official university website.

UWC Dilijan internal deadlines are earlier than university deadlines because the school needs time to review requests and submit official documents. Students must follow the dates communicated through MaiaLearning and school email.

[Common App first-year guide](#) | [UCAS dates and deadlines](#) | [Study in NL application guidance](#)

Academic Requirements and Testing

Is there one IB score required for university admission?

No. Requirements depend on the university, country and programme. Students must check both the total IB score and any subject-level requirements, including required Higher-Level subjects and grades.

U.S. universities generally review the full application in context, including the student's academic record, course choices, predicted results, activities, essays and recommendations. Strong academics remain important, especially at highly selective institutions, but there is no universal IB cut-off for the United States.

Universities in the United Kingdom commonly publish specific IB conditions. An offer may require an overall score and particular Higher Level grades. Students should assume that every stated condition must be met unless the university confirms otherwise in writing.

Do students need an English language proficiency test?

There is no universal waiver based on a fixed number of years at an English-medium school. Each university sets its own policy. Some institutions waive testing for students who have studied in English for a specified period or earned a particular IB English result; others still require a test.

Depending on the institution, accepted tests may include the Duolingo English Test, TOEFL or IELTS. Students must check the official policy for every university before registering for a test or assuming that a waiver applies. UWC Dilijan may occasionally receive a limited number of test-fee waivers. Availability and eligibility criteria vary and cannot be guaranteed.

Are SAT or ACT scores required?

Testing policies vary and may change from one admission cycle to the next. Some U.S. universities require the SAT or ACT, some are test-optional, and a smaller number use test-flexible policies. Students must check the policy for their exact entry year on each university's official website.

Even when a university is test-optional, a student may choose to submit a strong score if it adds useful academic evidence. Scholarship or honours consideration can have separate testing rules.

The SAT and ACT are not normally required for IB applicants to UK universities. However, particular UK programmes may require separate admissions tests such as the UCAT, LNAT, TMUA or ESAT. Requirements depend on the course and institution.

Financial Aid and Davis UWC Scholars

What are the main types of university funding?

Type	How it is awarded	What families should know
Need-based aid	Based on the university's assessment of the family's financial circumstances	The university may require the CSS Profile, its own financial aid form, tax or income documents and supporting explanations.
Merit scholarship	Based on academic achievement, leadership, talent or other published criteria	Some awards are automatic; others require a separate application, nomination, interview or earlier deadline.
Government aid	Based on citizenship or eligible status under government rules	The U.S. FAFSA is generally for U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens. Most international students do not complete the FAFSA.

Need-blind means an institution does not consider the applicant's ability to pay when making the admission decision. Need-aware means financial need may be considered. These policies can differ for domestic and international applicants.

Families should discuss an affordable contribution before the student finalises the university list. Admission and scholarship funding are separate decisions, and neither is guaranteed.

[CSS Profile](#) | [FAFSA](#)

What is the Davis UWC Scholars Program?

The Davis UWC Scholars Program supports UWC graduates with demonstrated financial need who enroll at participating colleges and universities in the United States. Students must first be admitted to a participating institution and complete that institution's financial aid process. The partner institution identifies and supports its Davis UWC Scholars; students do not submit a separate application directly to the Davis programme.

Davis funding is need-based and becomes part of the financial aid package arranged by the university. It is not a full scholarship automatically awarded to every admitted UWC student. The amount, family contribution, covered costs and renewal requirements depend on the university's policies and the student's financial circumstances.

The programme currently reports more than 100 U.S. partner institutions, more than 4,600 current scholars from over 160 countries and more than 15,000 alumni. Families should use the current partner list rather than an older saved list.

[Davis UWC Scholars Program](#) | [Current Davis partner institutions](#) | [UWC overview of the programme](#)

What costs may remain after financial aid?

A financial aid package may include grants, scholarships, work expectations, loans or a family contribution. Travel, visa costs, health insurance, books, personal expenses and deposits may not be fully covered. Families should review the official award letter and estimated cost of attendance before accepting an offer.

Options Beyond Davis Partners

Can students receive funding outside the Davis network?

Yes. Universities outside the Davis network may offer institutional need-based aid, merit scholarships or both. Funding policies differ greatly, and some institutions provide little or no aid to international students. Students should evaluate affordability before adding a university to their list.

U.S. institutions with campuses outside the United States, including global branch campuses, may offer their own financial aid. Davis funding does not apply to a campus outside the United States unless the programme and university confirm this in writing.

UWC also maintains partnerships and scholarship opportunities in several countries. Students should review the current information and discuss appropriate options with the University Counsellor.

[UWC university partnerships](#) | [Education City universities in Qatar](#)

How do school-nominated scholarships work?

Some scholarships require a nomination from UWC Dilijan and may limit the number of nominees from the school. The counselling office communicates available opportunities, required materials and internal deadlines. When more eligible students apply than the school can nominate, an internal review process is used.

A student who finds a nomination-based opportunity independently should send the official scholarship link, eligibility criteria and deadline to the University Counsellor as early as possible. A request does not guarantee that the school can submit a nomination, especially when the deadline is close or the institution limits nominations.

Gap Years and Deferred Enrolment

What is the difference between a gap year and deferred enrolment?

A gap year is a period between finishing school and beginning university. A student may take a gap year before applying, apply during the gap year or ask an institution that has already admitted them to postpone the start date.

Deferred enrolment means that a university has agreed in writing to hold an admitted student's place for a later intake. This is different from being deferred from an Early Decision or Early Action round, which means the application will be reconsidered later in the same admission cycle.

Can a student admitted to a U.S. university defer for one or two years?

Possibly, but deferral is never automatic. Most approved deferrals are for one academic year. Some institutions consider two-year requests for compulsory military service, religious service or other exceptional circumstances. For example, Harvard states that two-year deferrals may be considered for military or religious service or other unique circumstances, while MIT states that admitted students may request a one- or two-year deferral. These examples do not establish a rule for other universities.

A student facing compulsory military service, a serious family or health issue, a visa delay or another unforeseen circumstance should contact the university immediately and follow its deferral procedure. The request should explain the reason, proposed length and plan for the deferral period and include documentation if requested.

Before accepting a deferral, the student should obtain written answers to all of the following:

- Is the place guaranteed for the later entry term, and is an enrolment deposit required?
- Will the financial aid or scholarship be renewed, reassessed or require a new application?
- Will Davis eligibility and the university's Davis-supported aid package continue?
- Which academic, conduct and communication conditions must the student follow?

Students should not assume that an admission offer, merit scholarship or need-based aid will carry forward. Each element must be confirmed by the institution in writing.

What if a U.S. student visa is delayed or refused?

The student should inform both the admissions office and the university's international student office as soon as it becomes clear that arrival may be delayed. The university will decide whether late arrival is possible or whether the student must request a deferral. A visa delay or refusal does not by itself guarantee that the university will hold the place. If the university approves a later start date, the international student office may need to issue an updated Form I-20 and advise the student about the SEVIS record and visa process. Students should not travel using outdated documentation. Visa processing times vary, so students should apply as early as permitted and follow the instructions of the U.S. embassy or consulate handling the case.

Visa policies vary by country in terms of required documents, processing times, regulations, visa duration and immigration status. The same country may also apply different requirements to citizens of different countries. Therefore, check all details carefully using official sources and never assume that last year's policies still apply.

Does Davis support automatically continue after a gap year or deferral?

No blanket guarantee applies. Davis support is administered through the partner university and forms part of that institution's aid package. A student considering a gap year or deferral must ask the admissions and financial aid offices to confirm in writing whether the offer, financial aid and Davis-supported funding will remain available for the later entry year and whether updated financial documents are required.

School Documents After Graduation

How should a student prepare for applications during a gap year?

Students should discuss gap-year plans with the University Counsellor before graduation. Teacher recommendations should be requested while the student is still enrolled, and the student should ensure that the school has the correct personal email address for future communication.

After graduation, alumni who need transcripts, school reports or recommendations sent must use the current UWC Dilijan alumni document-request process and allow sufficient processing time. Students remain responsible for monitoring university deadlines, providing complete submission instructions and confirming that their application list is accurate.

A student applying during a gap year should reconnect with the counselling office well before the first deadline, ideally at the beginning of the application season. Last-minute requests may not be possible to complete.

Summer Programmes

Are summer programmes necessary for university admission?

No. Universities do not expect students to attend expensive or prestigious summer programmes. A meaningful job, family responsibility, local volunteering, independent project, reading plan, internship or community activity can be equally valuable when it reflects genuine interest and sustained engagement.

Students considering a formal programme should assess its academic value, safeguarding, cost, accessibility and fit with their interests. Participation does not guarantee admission to the host university.

How can the University Counsellor help?

The counsellor can help a student assess options and understand document requirements. A student who needs a transcript, school form or recommendation must follow the school's request process, communicate the deadline clearly and allow adequate time. Funding for summer programmes is limited and programme-specific.

Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

How may students use AI during the application process?

AI can support early research, help students generate questions, organise a work plan or identify issues to verify. It can also help with basic spelling and grammar when the student remains in control of the wording. AI output can be inaccurate or outdated, so every factual claim, deadline and requirement must be checked against an official source.

Students must not submit an essay, personal statement, activity description or other application response that they did not author or that misrepresents their experiences or voice. Heavy rewriting by AI can create the same problem even when the original idea came from the student. Students must follow UWC Dilijan's academic integrity expectations and any AI policy published by the application platform or university.

The central question is authorship and honesty: the student must understand, stand behind and be able to discuss everything submitted in the application.

[Common App fraud policy](#) | [Northwestern guidance on AI and undergraduate admission](#)

How Families Can Support Students

What support is most helpful during application season?

- Agree on an affordable annual family contribution before the student finalises the university list.
- Help gather income, tax and other financial documents early, especially when applying for need-based aid.
- Encourage the student to attend university visits and fairs, meet deadlines and ask questions directly.
- Focus discussions on academic, personal and financial fit rather than rankings alone.
- Give feedback without rewriting essays or taking over the application.
- Expect uncertainty. Admission and scholarship decisions cannot be guaranteed, even for a strong applicant.
- Contact the University Counsellor when a concern affects the student's plan, deadlines or wellbeing.

What should families avoid?

- Applying to institutions the student would not realistically attend.
- Relying on rankings, social media or AI-generated information without checking official sources.
- Comparing students' application lists or outcomes.
- Waiting until after admission to discuss finances, military service or likely visa constraints.

Official Resources and Contact Information

Where should families verify information?

- [Common Application](#)
- [UCAS](#)
- [Studielink](#)
- [Study in NL](#)
- [CSS Profile](#)
- [Federal Student Aid and FAFSA](#)
- [Davis UWC Scholars Program](#)
- [UWC university partnerships](#)

Who should families contact at UWC Dilijan with university application matters?

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